

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), OGEN

SUBJECT: HECK REMARKS TO PRESS ON TERRORISM

REF: SECTO 3038

FOR MOOSE FROM HECK

1. THERE ARE SEVERAL VERSIONS OF UPI STORY REPORTING JIM ANDERSON'S INTERVIEW WITH ME. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STORY AS IT WAS CARRIED IN WASHINGTON POST, MARCH 29:

A. QUOTE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S SPECIALIST IN COUNTER-TERRORISM SAID YESTERDAY HE STILL EXPECTS ARAB TERRORIST RETALIATION FOR THE ISRAELI RAID ON ENTEBBE LAST JULY WHICH FREED HIJACKED HOSTAGES AND KILLED THEIR CAPTORS.

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B. DOUGLAS HECK, THE SPECIALIST, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW, "I'M AFRAID WE'RE OVERDUE FOR ANOTHER ONE, IN RETALIATION FOR ENTEBBE. WE ASSUME THEY WILL TRY FOR REVENGE AND I EXPECTED IT BEFORE NOW."

C. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE

EXPIRATION APRIL 15 OF THE CUBAN-US ANTI-HIJACKING TREATY,

ALTHOUGH FIDEL CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED IT WILL
CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE TREATY TERMS.

D. ONE OFFICIAL SAID, "WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO HAVE A
COUPLE OF HIJACKINGS TO PROVE IT." THE TREATY WAS
RENOUNCED BY CASTRO LAST OCTOBER AFTER THE SABOTAGE OF A
CUBAN AIRLINER, FOR WHICH HE BLAMED THE CENTRAL INTELLI-
GENCY AGENCY.

E. HECK, CAREER DIPLOMAT WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR,
SAID ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE LACK OF REVENGE SO FAR FOR
ENTEBBE MAY HAVE BEEN THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON.

F. "IT TAKES A LOT OF RESOURCES TO MOUNT A LARGE TER-
RORIST OPERATION. YOU NEED PEOPLE, EQUIPMENT AND LOTS OF
TIME TO CASE THE JOINT. THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST IS THE MAJOR
EXPORTER OF TERRORISM AND LATELY MOST OF THEIR ENERGY
GOES TOWARD ZAPPING EACH OTHER." UNQUOTE

2. SPECULATION ON FUTURE ACTS OF TERRORISTS IS A TACTIC
THAT HAS SOME SUPPORT IN THE GOVERNMENT AS WAY TO KEEP
TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS ON DEFENSIVE AND GUESSING ABOUT
OUR COUNTER-MEASURES. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF USE OF THIS TAC-
TIC WAS POLICY PURSUED BY CANADIAN OFFICIALS IN THE
MONTREAL OLYMPICS TO STIMULATE SPECULATION ABOUT TER-
RORISTS ACTS AT OLYMPICS WITH OBJECTIVE OF DISCOURAGING
THEM. SPECULATION ABOUT PALESTINIAN RETALIATION FOR
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ENTEBBE DEBACLE IS COMMON PLACE. HAVING SAID THIS, I WILL,
OF COURSE, DESIST FROM THIS LINE OF COMMENTARY IN THE
FUTURE.

3. I HAVE PASSED FOREGOING TO CLAY MCMANAWAY.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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